

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 /093 W

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R 280740Z FEB 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2888

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0265

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, SO

SUBJ: GOI DENOUNCES FOREIGN PRESENCE ON SOMALI COAST

1. IN STATEMENT ISSUED FEB 16, IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER SAADOUN HAMMADI CALLED FOR A COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN PRESENCE FROM THE SOMALI COAST. HE SAID THAT SUCH A WITHDRAWAL WOULD "FOLD UP" ANOTHER PAGE OF COLONIALISM IN AFRICA. HE ADDED THAT IRAQ IS OF THE OPINION THAT "THIS COAST AND SOMALIA OUGHT TO BE LINKED IN A MANNER AGREED UPON BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TWO AREAS WHO SHOULD ALSO DECIDE THE FORM OF THE LINK WHICH SHOULD SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED SOMALI PEOPLE AND CONSEQUENTLY THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION". HAMMADI ALSO CALLED FOR ARAB LEAGUE EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM.

2. COMMENT: STATEMENT COULD BE READ TO INCLUDE THE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOMALIA AS WELL AS THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN THE TERRITORY OF THE ARARS AND ISSAS. IN OUR INFORMAL TALKS WITH FONMIN OFFICIALS, THEY HAVE TAKEN LINE THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL MAJOR-POWER MILITARY PRESENCE REMOVED FROM AREA. WHILE THESE OFFICIALS WOULD NOT ADMIT IT, IRAQI DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET ARMS, CONFIDENTIAL

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MAKES GOI RELUCTANT TO ATTACK SOVIET UNION OPENLY ON ISSUE OF

SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN MIDDLE EAST. GOI OS ALSO RELUCTANT
TO CRITICIZE FRENCH GOVERNMENT BY NAME AT A TIME WHEN IMPROVEMENT
OF RELATIONS WITH FRANCH IS A CURRENT IRAQI POLICY OBJECTIVE.
WILEY

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NNN

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To: STATE
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